

CLAIMS

The claims are pending as follows.

1-576. (Canceled)

577. (Previously presented) A method for synchronizing media playback, the method comprising:

receiving a media stream from a source device via a network, the source device being one of a plurality of devices in communication via the network, the media stream comprising source-clock information related to an independent clock associated with the source device;

determining a time differential between the independent clock associated with the source device and one or more independent clocks associated with one or more playback devices based on the source-clock information, each of the one or more playback devices being one of the plurality of devices; and

outputting the media stream via two or more playback devices in synchrony based on the time differential, the two or more playback devices being in synchrony when a user observing the outputting of the media stream is unable to perceive time-delay differences between the two or more playback devices.

578. (Previously presented) The method of claim 577, further comprising controlling one or more of the plurality of devices via a user interface module.

579. (Previously presented) The method of claim 577, further comprising providing status information associated with one or more of the plurality of devices.

580. (Previously presented) The method of claim 577, further comprising adding an additional device to the plurality of devices.

581. (Previously presented) The method of claim 580, wherein the additional device replaces the source device as a new source device.

582. (Previously presented) The method of claim 580, wherein the additional device joins the one or more playback devices as a new playback device.

583. (Previously presented) The method of claim 577, further comprising removing a device from the plurality of devices without interrupting the outputting of the media stream via the two or more playback devices.

584. (Previously presented) The method of claim 577, further comprising converting the source device into one of the one or more playback devices, and converting one of the one or more playback devices into the source device.

585. (Previously presented) The method of claim 584, wherein the tightly coupled synchrony is uninterrupted.

586. (Previously presented) The method of claim 577, further comprising adjusting a clock rate of the one or more independent clocks associated with one or more playback devices.

587. (Previously presented) The method of claim 577, wherein determining the time differential is performed periodically.

588. (Previously presented) The method of claim 577, wherein receiving the media stream is performed by a unicast transmission methodology.

589. (Previously presented) The method of claim 577, wherein receiving the media stream is performed by a multicast transmission methodology.

590. (Previously amended) A system for synchronizing media playback, the system comprising:

- a plurality of devices configured to be in communication via a network, the plurality of devices comprising a source device and one or more playback devices;

- wherein the source device is configured to transmit a media stream, the media stream comprising source-clock information related to an independent clock associated with the source device; and

- wherein the one or more playback devices are configured to determine a time differential between the independent clock associated with the source device and one or more independent clocks associated with the one or more playback devices based on the source-clock information, and to output the media stream via two or more playback devices in synchrony based on the time differential, the two or more playback devices being in synchrony when a user observing the outputting of the media stream is unable to perceive time-delay differences between the two or more playback devices.

591. (Previously presented) The system of claim 590, further comprising a user interface module configured to control one or more of the plurality of devices.

592. (Previously presented) The system of claim 590, wherein the plurality of devices are further configured such that devices can be added and removed from the plurality of devices without interrupting the tightly coupled synchrony.

593. (Previously presented) The system of claim 590, wherein the source device is further configured to be converted into one of the one or more playback devices, and at least one of the one or more playback devices is further configured to be converted into the source device.

594. (Previously presented) The system of claim 590, wherein a clock rate of the one or more independent clocks associated with the one or more playback devices is adjustable.

595. (Previously presented) The system of claim 590, wherein the media stream comprises audio information.

596. (Previously presented) The system of claim 590, wherein the media stream comprises video information.

597. (Previously presented) The system of claim 590, wherein the source-clock information comprises a timestamp.

598. (Previously presented) The system of claim 590, wherein one or more playback devices are operable with one or more of unicast transmission or multicast transmission.

599. (Previously presented) The system of claim 590, wherein the source device is further configured to output the media stream in tightly coupled synchrony with the one or more playback devices.

600. (Previously presented) A machine readable storage medium having embodied thereon a program, the program providing instructions for a method for synchronizing media playback, the method comprising:

- receiving a media stream from a source device via a network, the source device being one of a plurality of devices in communication via the network, the media stream comprising source-clock information related to an independent clock associated with the source device;

- determining a time differential between the independent clock associated with the source device and one or more independent clocks associated with one or more playback devices based on the source-clock information, each of the one or more playback devices being one of the plurality of devices; and

- outputting the media stream via two or more playback devices in synchrony based on the time differential, the two or more playback devices being in synchrony when a user observing the outputting of the media stream is unable to perceive time-delay differences between the two or more playback devices.